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A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!

DR. WASHINGTON EXPLAINS

Tells About The Semi-Centennial Exposition—Laying the Foundation For a Great Movement.

Editor The PLANET:—

I have received so many letters recently regarding the proposed celebration in the year 1913 of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the freedom of the American Negro, that I deem it wise to ask you to permit me to use your columns in making some reply to these letters rather than in trying to answer each one individually.

Attention has already been called to the importance of some kind of a celebration to take the form of an exposition or something else. Of course, in order to have such an exposition, it is of the first importance that it have the recognition and support of the United States Government as well as that of as many states as possible, for without the influence and help of the central government it would hardly be possible to have an exposition that would reflect credit upon our race.

THE PRESIDENT'S IDEAS.

Having all this in mind, the whole matter of such an exposition was carefully put before the President of the United States, and after considering the whole subject with great care, manifesting the deepest interest, it was thought best by President Taft and others who consulted with him that in order to secure the confidence and support of the American people that the whole matter should be taken up in a dignified orderly way and that this could best be accomplished through the appointment of a preliminary and temporary commission by the President, authorized by Congress, such commission to be composed of men of such ripe and wide experience and reputation that their recommendations would carry weight. It would be the purpose of such a commission to study carefully the whole subject and if deemed wise to recommend the holding of such an exposition, to map out a general and comprehensive scheme for its execution. This would prove the basis for an appeal to Congress and to state legislatures and philanthropic individuals for such support as would create an exposition that would command the respect and confidence of the world.

THE BILL OFFERED.

Accordingly, a bill has been prepared and introduced into both the House of Representatives and the U. S. Senate carrying out the suggestion of providing for the appointment of a commission. President Taft, further manifested his interest in the proposed exposition by referring to it in the most complimentary way in his recent message. It is believed that the bill introduced into Congress will pass early in the present session.

In order to insure the success of the exposition it is important that we proceed carefully and systematically. No hasty, ill-considered plan will command the respect and confidence of the American people.

ADVISES PATIENCE.

I wish to say in this same connection that it is important that the race be patient while these plans are maturing. In the end it will be found that every element of the race will receive proper recognition and be given an opportunity to take part in the exposition. So far as the selection of individuals to take the leadership in the matter is concerned nothing definite has been done; only preliminary committees have been selected with a view of getting matters in shape to present to the President. After the passage of the bill now before Congress and the appointment of the commission by the President there will be plenty of time for all organizations, denominations and institutions to receive proper recognition and I am sure that this will be done.

NO SHORT CUTS ADVISABLE.

Nothing can be gained, but much lost, by any attempt to take short cuts and by doing those things that call attention to little side issues that have no possible chance to succeed. We need in this matter the united effort of all elements of the race, and the evidence, so far points to the fact that the race is more united on this project than it has ever been on any other of similar magnitude, and we hope that this union of the masses of the people will continue.

I wish also to add that most

careful consideration, before any decision is reached, will be given to the claims of every city or locality that is interested in having the proposed exposition located in its midst.

Other information as progress is made from time to time will be given.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.
Tuskegee Institute, Ala. Dec. 21, '09.

The name of Cornelius W. McDougald has been announced by Judge Whitman, recently elected District Attorney for the county of New York, as one of the assistants under the fusion administration for four years beginning January 1st. Mr. McDougald is a young colored lawyer who has very rapidly come to the front in New York during the last few years. His selection by Judge Whitman was secured through the influence of Hon. Charles W. Anderson, Collector of Internal Revenue, and other influences of that character.

Compliments Editorial in The Planet

The people of Richmond are always interested in the progress of our negro population. The more generous of the whites have shown their interest by aiding every effort to improve the general condition of the negroes; the city, as a whole, has dealt fairly with them and has encouraged them to drift and good order. If the results of this policy have been real and lasting the whites have themselves to thank as well as the negroes.

The most recent proof of what Richmond negroes are doing is seen in the Auditor's report, where their property is listed. Perhaps few citizens will be prepared for this showing. Negroes in this city returned real estate to the value of \$2,057,517, and personal property in the sum of \$473,465. As an evidence of good business ability and frugal, careful saving, this record deserves the commendation of the entire city.

In rejoicing over these figures, one of the colored papers of the city takes occasion to point out the moral to its readers. It says:

"While the industrious, well-behaved, good-meaning colored people are improving their financial condition and indirectly adding to the material wealth of the communities in which they live, the lawless, disreputable colored people are building up brush fires in our rear by their outrageous conduct, and this will tend to destroy much of the product of honest toil. For this reason, we should study out some method to curb and control the wild, dissolute colored elements, which cause us so much concern and no end of annoyance. We cannot rely entirely upon the police power of the respective communities in which we live to do it. We must do much of the work ourselves, and our organizations owe it to themselves and to the race and to the government to make an honest persistent effort to reform and reclaim the mass of poverty and crime which causes the Associated Press dispatches to teem with the disreputable actions of many of our people who might be restrained and taught better."

This is good, sound sense that must appeal to every right-thinking man in the city. The negroes, as a whole, should not properly be judged by the conduct of the worst element; but, as a matter of fact, they are often so judged. If this condition of affairs is ever to be corrected, it must be through the action of the negroes themselves in frowning upon the criminal and unworthy elements in their midst.

The city will be glad to see the better class of negroes moving in this direction, and will cheerfully bear witness to the progress they have already made. Ten years ago it was practically impossible to secure evidence against a negro from those of his own race. At that time a negro might be hidden with friends in Jackson Ward and could almost laugh at the police. Today there are many negroes who would unhesitatingly expose such a criminal and there are others—many of them—who would not be party to concealing them.

This of itself shows an upward movement and indicates how the better men among the negroes are striving to gain the confidence many of them deserve.—Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch, Dec. 25, 1909.

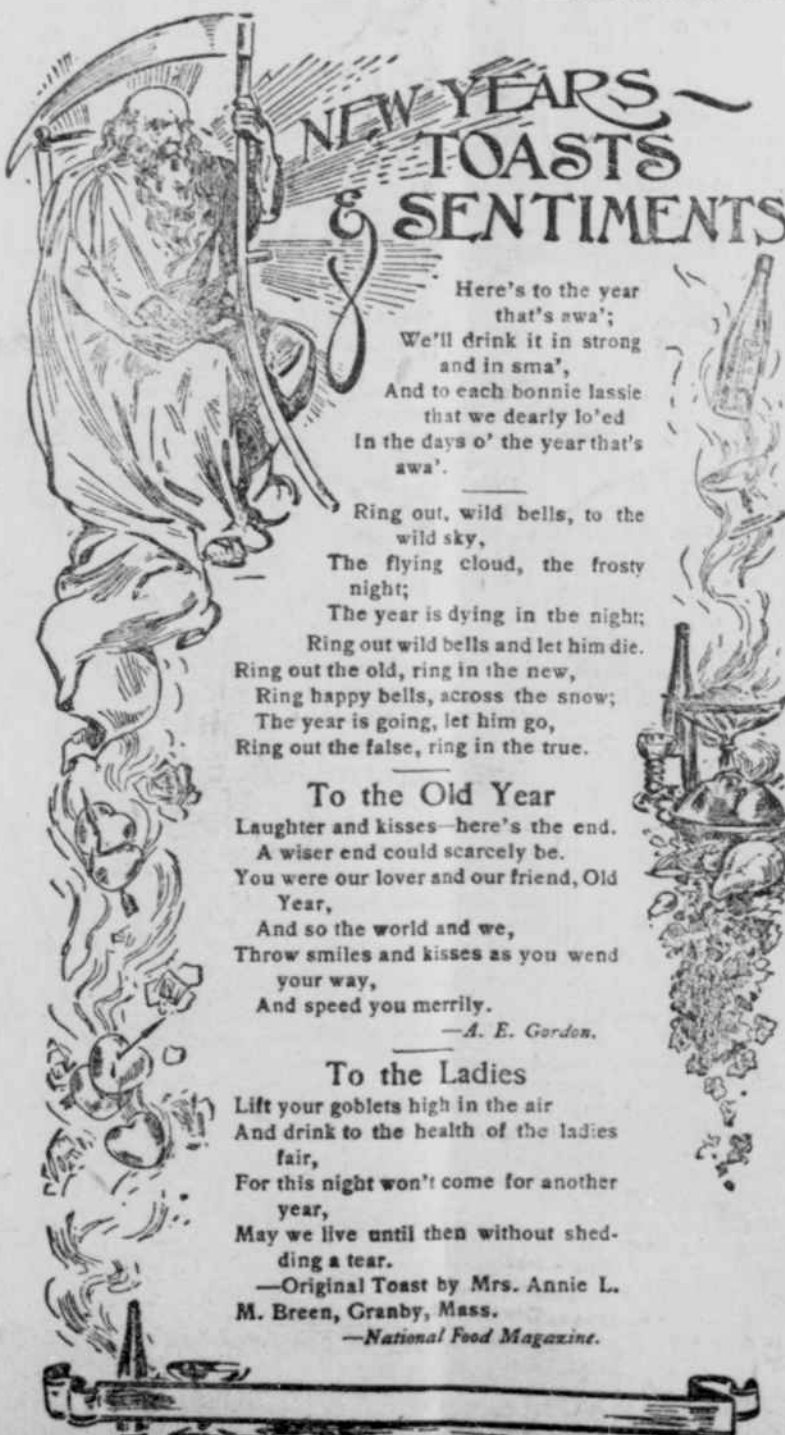
Mr. E. W. R. Glenn, now of Gordonsville, called on us this week. Everybody is already smiling at Acca Temple's venture and they say that they are going to see this two ring circus played to a finish.

SAYS 1909 TO 1910



The Old Person—I wish you all kinds of prosperity during your term of office, bub, but I want to warn you this year's job is a fast life. In just 12 months or in about 8,760 hours, you will be wearing a long gray beard, spectacles on your nose, a seven-dollar black suit badly wrinkled, weigh

about sixty-five pounds, and carry around one of these glass thimbles they have in the kitchen to time the egg boiling. And some will be sorry, others glad, that you are then ready to be succeeded by another fat little infant labeled "1911."



HURLEY MURDERER IS LYNCHED BY MOB

Henry Pennington Hanged and Body Riddled With Bullets.

Hurley, Va., December 26.—Following the killing here on Christmas Eve of Samuel Baker and the serious wounding of his wife and two children by the former's enemy, Henry Pennington, a mob of one hundred citizens late last night took Pennington from an improvised jail, where he had been incarcerated under heavy guard, and hanged him to a steam pipe.

Pennington who had been drinking, picked a quarrel with Baker and shot him while the latter was on his way to a Sunday-school Christmas tree with his wife his two children and a friend, Wyatt Meadows. Seeing that he had killed Baker, Pennington started to run away. Mrs. Baker called after Pennington and implored him to help her take the body home.

The mob worked, and Pennington went back to the spot where his victim lay dead. Bent upon avenging the dead Mrs. Baker grabbed Pennington's pistol from his pocket and shot twice at him. Her aim was bad but she succeeded in wounding him in the hand and thigh. Pennington recovered possession of the pistol and then shot the woman and attempted to kill Meadows, who was running away, and the two children.

CAPTURED BY POSSE.

Pennington then fled, but was surrounded by a posse on the outskirts of the town later in the night. He was captured after an exchange of shots with the officers, who badly wounded him. Being too weak to stand the journey to the Grundy jail, fifteen miles distant over mountainous country, Pennington was locked up in the constable's house, but about 1 o'clock yesterday he was thought advisable to remove him to a boarding-house, where he was put under a strong guard.

Feeling against Pennington ran high and many covert threats of lynching were heard during the day. Last midnight a band of about one hundred citizens was quietly organized. The guard was overpowered and Pennington was taken to the engine room of a lumber mill nearby and hanged to a steam pipe. The body was riddled with bullets, and was then left hanging until 9 o'clock this morning, when it was cut down.

Baker's funeral was held to-day, but his wife was too badly wounded to attend. Baker was a son-in-law of "Aunt Betty" Justis and a brother-in-law of George Meadows, two of the victims of the famous sextuple murder here several months ago, for which Howard Little has been sentenced to die in the electric chair on January 6.

FRIEND OF LITTLE.

Pennington was known to be a friend of Howard Little, and it is thought that the talk of a new trial for Little had much to do with his seeking a quarrel with Baker, and as well for the sentiment which provoked the lynching which followed. Little has been granted a thirty-day respite by Governor Swanson, his attorneys claiming that his witnesses were intimidated by the friends of the Meadows family, and that he has been sentenced because of his previous bad reputation with no evidence other than circumstantial.

FIRST IN FOUR YEARS.

The lynching in Buchanan county of Henry Pennington is the first affair of the kind during the administration of Governor Swanson. For more than four years the State has been free from any lawlessness of this sort.

Buchanan county has no railroad, and mail and telephone service is exceedingly slow and unsatisfactory. Not even the news of Pennington's crime had reached Governor Swanson until he was apprised last night of the lynching. Even had the Buchanan sheriff anticipated trouble and had been able to communicate immediately after the crime with the executive, no militia could have reached the scene in time to prevent the trouble. There is now no militia company west of Lynchburg, and two or three days would elapse before any soldiers could reach the mountain fastnesses of the Kentucky border.

Mr. George L. Coleman, of Randolph, and Alexander Miles and Andrew Logan, of Manchester, Va., called on us.

JOHNSON'S TITLE YEAR OLD

Champion Pugilist Celebrates His Victory Over Burns.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Jack Johnson, heavyweight pugilistic champion of the world, today celebrated the first anniversary of his accession to the title by a house-warming in the home he has presented to his mother. One year ago today Johnson knocked out Tommy Burns in the fourteenth round of the championship fight at Rusheutter's Bay, near Sydney, N. S. W., and won the world's title.

Talk of his coming fight with James J. Jeffries was postponed by the champion until he had carved a turkey and told about his failure to get turkey after his fight with Burns and how he made his championship dinner on a suckling pig.

After the dinner Johnson said he was certain that the forthcoming fight with Jeffries would be staged at San Francisco, instead of Salt Lake City, and they announced that he would pitch his training camp at Ocean View, just outside of San Francisco. Johnson also announced that "Gudboat" Smith, a Pacific coast heavyweight, would be one of his training partners.

Former Champion James J. Corbett, who is scheduled to be one of Jeffries' training partners, was in Chicago today. He predicted that Jeffries would have little trouble in gaining the heavyweight title.

Tickets For The Winter Circus.

The management has given admirable location and fine seats to the colored people for the grand circus and hippodrome at the Horse Show building. Tickets are 50 cents and 75 cents, and they may be obtained at the Mechanics' Savings Bank, 511 N. Third Street, The True Reformers' Bank, 604 N. Second Street, St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, 112 E. Broad Street, Thompson's Pharmacy, St. James and Duval Streets. Boxes and reserved seats for any night can be secured in advance by applying at any of these places.

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The Old Folk's Home Sold.

The Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch, is the authority for the statement that the Grand Fountain U. O. True Reformers, through its officers, has sold the Old Folks' Home property at Westham, for \$110,000. Mr. John Landstreet, representing a syndicate of white men is the purchaser.

THE SOUTHERN SECRET SERVICE Company. All business strictly confidential. Representatives wanted in every city and country in the South. Liberal fees to good men. Office: 112 E. Main Street, (Room 13), Richmond, Va.

Mr. John Adams, of Danville, Va., was in the city this week.

Mr. W. G. Fenderson, of Keokee, Va., was in the city this week, and called on us.

Of course you will be happy and so will the girl that you take to the Horse Show building next week.

Mr. Ervin Passes Away.

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God in His wise providence to remove from our midst our brother Sir P. C. C. Paul Ervin, of America Lodge, No. 98, Knights of Pythias, we bow in humble submission to the will of God who doeth all things well.

Resolved, that the lodge desires to place on record their high appreciation of the many obligations of mind and heart which endeared Brother Ervin to all with whom he came in contact.

Second, that these resolutions be spread on our minutes.

GRANVILLE WALLACE,
ISHAM NORRELL,
JOSEPH CHARITY, Chair.
Committee.